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Agenda item 91

Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Coly **Seck** (Senegal)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled:

"Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session:

"(a) Report of the Disarmament Commission;

"(b) Report of the Conference on Disarmament"

was included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions S-10/2 of 30 June 1978, 38/183 O of 20 December 1983, 39/148 H of 17 December 1984 and 62/54 and 62/55 of 5 December 2007.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 6 October 2008, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 81 to 96, which was held at the 2nd to 8th meetings, from 6 to 10 and on 13 and 14 October (see A/C.1/63/PV.2-8). The Committee also held 11 meetings, from 14 to 17, from 20 to 24 and on 27 October, for an exchange of views with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials, as well as panel discussions with independent experts and follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted at previous sessions (see A/C.1/63/PV.8-18). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and

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considered, at the 8th to 18th meetings, from 14 to 17, from 20 to 24 and on 27 October (see A/C.1/63/PV. 8-18). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 19th to 22nd meetings, from 28 to 31 October (see A/C.1/63/PV.19-22).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament on its 2008 session;[1]

(b) Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2008;[2]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (A/63/279);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (A/63/177).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.47

5. At the 17th meeting, on 24 October, the representative of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), on behalf of Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament" (A/C.1/63/L.47).

6. At the 20th meeting, on 29 October, the representative of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In the sixth preambular paragraph, the words "Presidents of the Conference for the 2008 session" were replaced by the words "2008 Presidents of the Conference", and the words "for the 2008 session" were deleted after the words "Presidents of the Conference" at the end of the paragraph;

(b) In the ninth preambular paragraph, the words "declaration of the Secretary-General" were replaced by the words "address by the Secretary-General".

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.47, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 11, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.48

8. At the 17th meeting, on 24 October, the representative of the Netherlands, on behalf of the members of the extended Bureau of the Disarmament Commission (Armenia, Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, Croatia, France, Guatemala, Peru, Netherlands, Philippines and Uzbekistan) introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission" (A/C.1/63/L.48).

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/63/27).

[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 42* (A/63/42).

9. At the 20th meeting, on 29 October, the representative of the Netherlands orally revised operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution by adding the words "in accordance with decision 52/492" after the words "the remaining agenda items".

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.48, as orally revised, without a vote[3] (see para. 11, draft resolution II).

[3] The representative of the United States of America made a statement indicating that the United States delegation would not participate in action taken on the draft resolution.

III. Recommendations of the First Committee

11. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,[1]

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Recognizing the need to conduct multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching agreement on concrete issues,

Recalling, in this respect, that the Conference has a number of urgent and important issues for negotiation,

Taking note of active discussions held on the programme of work during the 2008 session of the Conference, as duly reflected in the report and the records of the plenary meetings,

Taking note also of the increased deliberations of the Conference due to the constructive contribution of its member States, the work done under the authority of the 2008 Presidents of the Conference, including focused structured debates on all substantive agenda items and with the participation of experts from capitals, and the cooperation among the Presidents of the Conference,

Taking note further of significant contributions made during the 2008 session to promote substantive discussions on issues on the agenda, as well as of discussions held on other issues that could also be relevant to the current international security environment,

Stressing the urgent need for the Conference to commence its substantive work at the beginning of its 2009 session,

Recognizing the address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as the addresses by Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials, as expressions of support for the endeavours of the Conference and its role as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum,

Bearing in mind the importance of efforts towards revitalization of the disarmament machinery, including the Conference,

Recognizing the importance of continuing consultations on the question of the expansion of the Conference membership,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/63/27).

2. *Calls upon* the Conference to further intensify consultations and explore possibilities with a view to reaching an agreement on a programme of work;

3. *Takes note* of the strong collective interest of the Conference to build on the increased level and focus of its activities through 2008 and to commence substantive work as soon as possible during its 2009 session;

4. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference to request its current President and the incoming President to conduct consultations during the intersessional period and, if possible, to make recommendations, taking into account all relevant proposals, past, present and future, including those submitted as documents of the Conference, views presented and discussions held, and to endeavour to keep the membership of the Conference informed, as appropriate, of their consultations, as contained in paragraph 53 of its report;[1]

5. *Requests* all States members of the Conference to cooperate with the current President and successive Presidents in their efforts to guide the Conference to the early commencement of substantive work in its 2009 session;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the provision to the Conference of adequate administrative, substantive and conference support services;

7. *Requests* the Conference to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

Draft resolution II
Report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004, 60/91 of 8 December 2005, 61/98 of 6 December 2006 and 62/54 of 5 December 2007,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in the promotion of the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the validity of its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998, concerning the efficient functioning of the Disarmament Commission;

3. *Recalls* its resolution 61/98, by which it adopted additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the Commission's methods of work;

4. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

5. *Also reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

6. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[2] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[3]

7. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission include in the agenda of its 2009 substantive session an item entitled "Elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade", in accordance with resolution 61/67;

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/63/42).
[2] Resolution S-10/2.
[3] A/CN.10/137.

8. *Also recommends* that the Disarmament Commission intensify consultations with a view to reaching agreement on the remaining agenda items, in accordance with decision 52/492, before the start of its substantive session of 2009;

9. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2009, namely from 13 April to 1 May, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,[4] together with all the official records of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/63/27).